Senate File 441 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 441
BY WAHLS

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to kindergarten programs offered by school
- 2 districts.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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- 1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, unnumbered
- 2 paragraph 1, Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:
- For a school or school district with a school calendar
- 4 measuring instructional time in days pursuant to section
- 5 279.10, subsection 1, define the minimum school day as a day
- 6 consisting of six hours of instructional time for grades one
- 7 kindergarten through grade twelve. The minimum hours shall be
- 8 exclusive of the lunch period, but may include passing time
- 9 between classes. Time spent on parent-teacher conferences
- 10 shall be considered instructional time. A school or school
- 11 district may record a day of school with less than the minimum
- 12 instructional hours as a minimum school day if any of the
- 13 following apply:
- 14 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 19, paragraph b, Code
- 15 2019, is amended to read as follows:
- 16 b. If the total hours of instructional school time for
- 17 grades one kindergarten through grade twelve for any five
- 18 consecutive school days equal a minimum of thirty hours,
- 19 even though any one day of school is less than the minimum
- 20 instructional hours because of a staff development opportunity
- 21 provided for the professional instructional staff or because
- 22 parent-teacher conferences have been scheduled beyond the
- 23 regular school day. Furthermore, if the total hours of
- 24 instructional time for the first four consecutive days equal at
- 25 least thirty hours because parent-teacher conferences have been
- 26 scheduled beyond the regular school day, a school or school
- 27 district may record zero hours of instructional time on the
- 28 fifth consecutive school day as a minimum school day.
- 29 Sec. 3. Section 256.9, subsection 31, paragraph a, Code
- 30 2019, is amended to read as follows:
- 31 a. Develop standards and instructional materials to do all
- 32 of the following:
- 33 (1) Assist school districts in developing appropriate
- 34 before and after school programs for elementary school
- 35 children.

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- 1 (2) Assist school districts in the development of child
- 2 care services and programs to complement half-day and all-day
- 3 kindergarten programs.
- 4 (3) Assist school districts in the development of
- 5 appropriate curricula for all-day, everyday kindergarten
- 6 programs.
- 7 (4) (3) Assist school districts in the development of
- 8 appropriate early elementary curricula for the early elementary
- 9 grades one kindergarten through grade three.
- 10 (5) (4) Assist prekindergarten instructors in the
- 11 development of appropriate curricula and teaching practices.
- 12 Sec. 4. Section 279.51, subsection 2, paragraph a,
- 13 subparagraph (2), subparagraph division (a), Code 2019, is
- 14 amended to read as follows:
- 15 (a) To school districts to establish programs for
- 16 three-year-old, four-year-old, and five-year-old at-risk
- 17 children which are a combination of preschool and full-day
- 18 kindergarten.
- 19 Sec. 5. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
- 20 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
- 21 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
- 22 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
- 23 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
- 24 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
- 25 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
- 26 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
- 27 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
- 28 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
- 29 districts.
- 30 EXPLANATION
- 31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
- 32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 33 This bill makes kindergarten programs offered by school
- 34 districts subject to the minimum school day and instructional
- 35 requirements that currently apply to grades 1 through 12. The

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- 1 bill eliminates references to half-day, full-day, and everyday
- 2 kindergarten programs.
- 3 Currently, students enrolled in kindergarten, whether in
- 4 full-day or half-day programs, are counted as one pupil for
- 5 purposes of state school foundation aid received by a school
- 6 district pursuant to Code chapter 257.
- 7 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
- 8 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
- 9 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
- 10 district from state school foundation aid received by the
- 11 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
- 12 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
- 13 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
- 14 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
- 15 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
- 16 mandates included in the bill.